

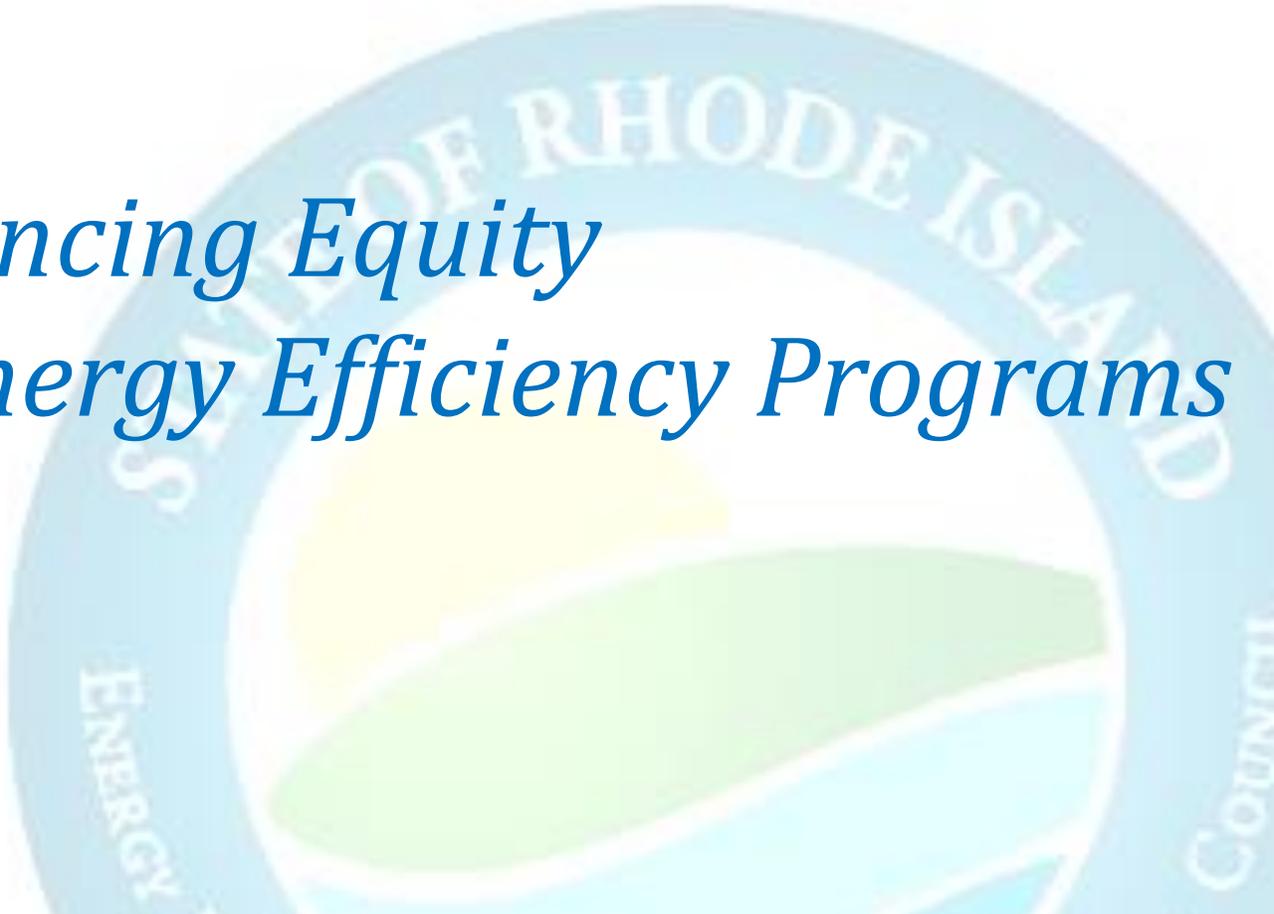


STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

CONSULTANT TEAM

*Advancing Equity
in Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Programs*

A large, faded version of the State of Rhode Island Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council logo is positioned in the background on the right side of the slide. It features the same circular design with the text "STATE OF RHODE ISLAND" and "ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL" around the perimeter, and a central graphic of a sun, hills, and waves.



Presentation Scope

I. Introduction

II. Equity in Energy Efficiency - Definitions and Concepts

III. MA EEAC Equity Working Group - Lessons Learned

IV. Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group - Planning Measurable Impact

V. Discussion Framing Questions



I. Introduction

A key EERMC Priority was that National Grid fulfill its commitments in the approved 2021-2023 Three-Year Plan

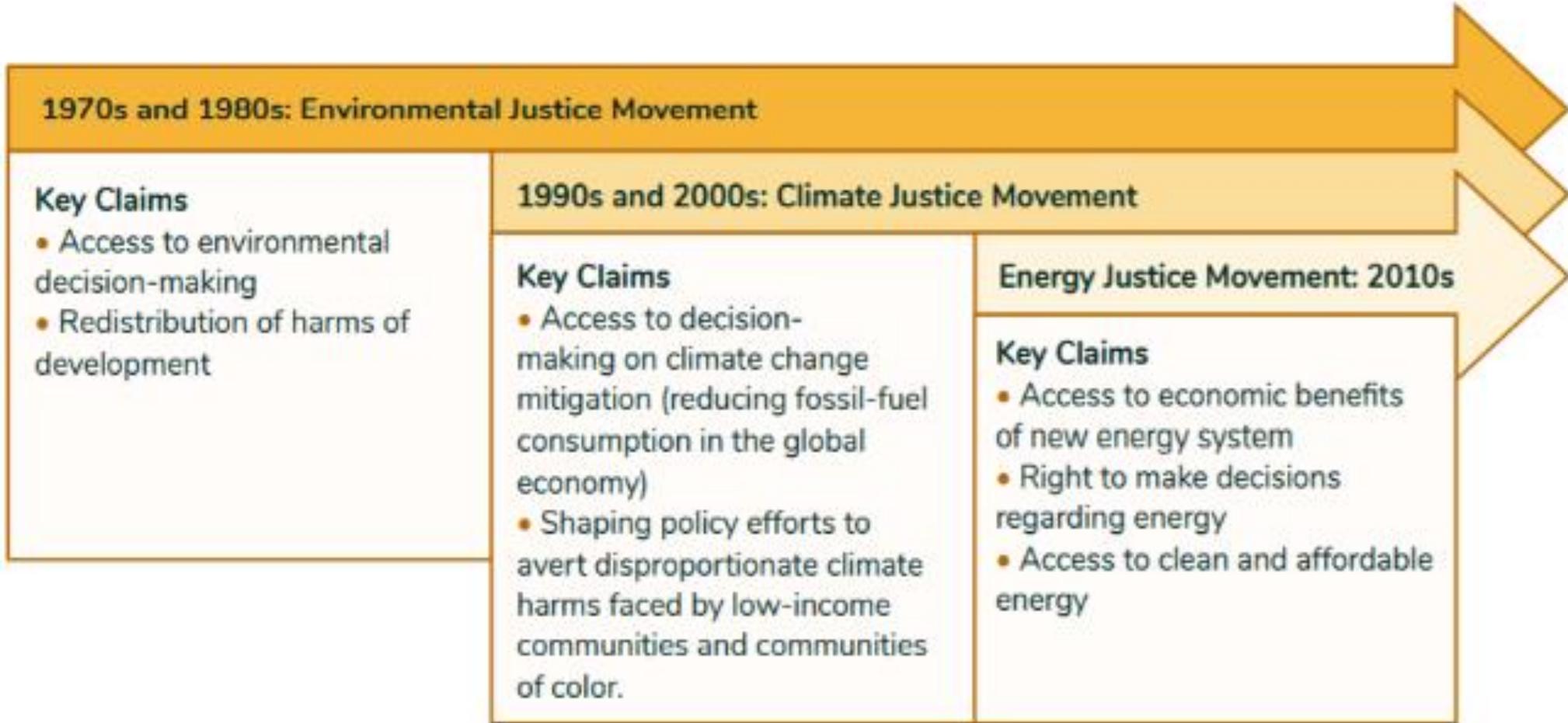
Applying an equity lens to all planning and design updates is a core strategic priority of the 2021-2023 Three-Year Plan

National Grid is committed to ensuring:

- That all customers have equal ability to access and benefit from energy efficiency programs, regardless of their geographic location, income, home ownership status, primary language, business size, or other relevant barriers
- That jobs and economic development benefits of the programs reach all Rhode Island communities, with renewed emphasis on environmental justice communities

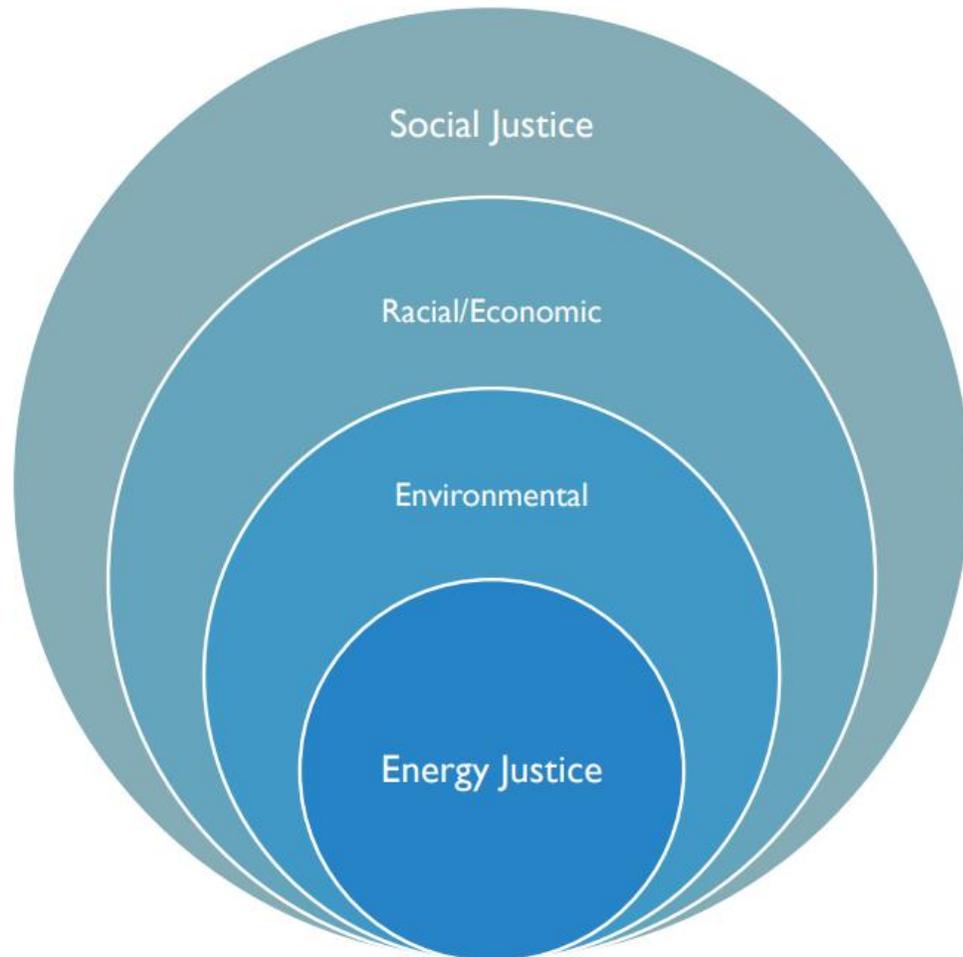


II. The Origins of Energy Equity and Justice





Equity in Energy Efficiency

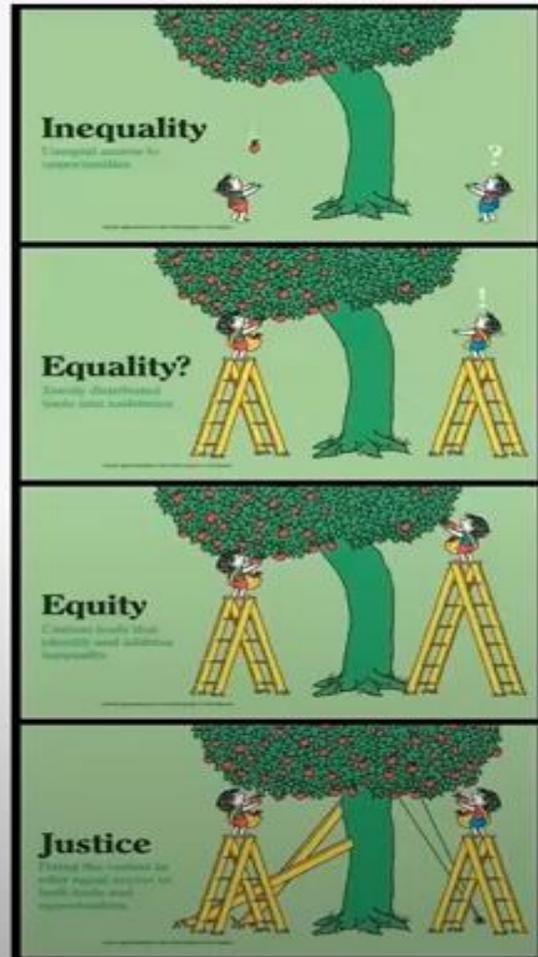


An energy-just world is one that equitably shared both the *benefits* and *burdens* involved in the *production* and *consumption* of energy services, as well as one that is fair in how it treats people and communities in energy decision-making

- Sovacool & Dworkin
Global Energy Justice



Equity vs. Equality



Inequality is based on a system that benefits some more than others.

Equality is based on evenly distributed inputs

Equity is based on outputs - custom tools and solutions that identify and address inequality

Justice is based on fixing the system to offer equal access



Energy Equity Related Terms and Definitions

Frequently Used Terms	Definition
Energy Burden	Amount of overall household income spent to cover energy costs.
Energy Insecurity	The inability to meet basic household energy needs due to the high cost of energy.
Energy Equity	It evaluates the accessibility and affordability of energy.
Energy Justice	The goal of achieving equity in both the social and economic participation in the energy system, while also remediating social, economic, and health burdens on those historically harmed by the energy system.
Environmental Justice	Recognition and remediation of the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on communities of color and low-income communities.
Procedural Justice	Highlights the importance of “justice as public participation” and explores the ways to achieve “just” outcomes through local knowledge mobilization, greater information disclosure, and better institutional representation.
Distributional Justice	Focuses on the distribution of energy and where injustices emerge in energy system processes.
Recognition Justice	Considers groups in society that are ignored or misrepresented and calls for greater recognition of these groups to reduce social inequalities.



Transformative Rhetoric Moving from *Diversity* to *Equity*

Diversity asks, “Who’s in the room?” **Equity** responds, “Who is trying to get in the room but can’t? Whose presence in the room is under constant threat of erasure?”

Inclusion asks, “Has everyone’s ideas been heard?” **Justice** responds, “Whose ideas won’t be taken as seriously because they aren’t in the majority?”

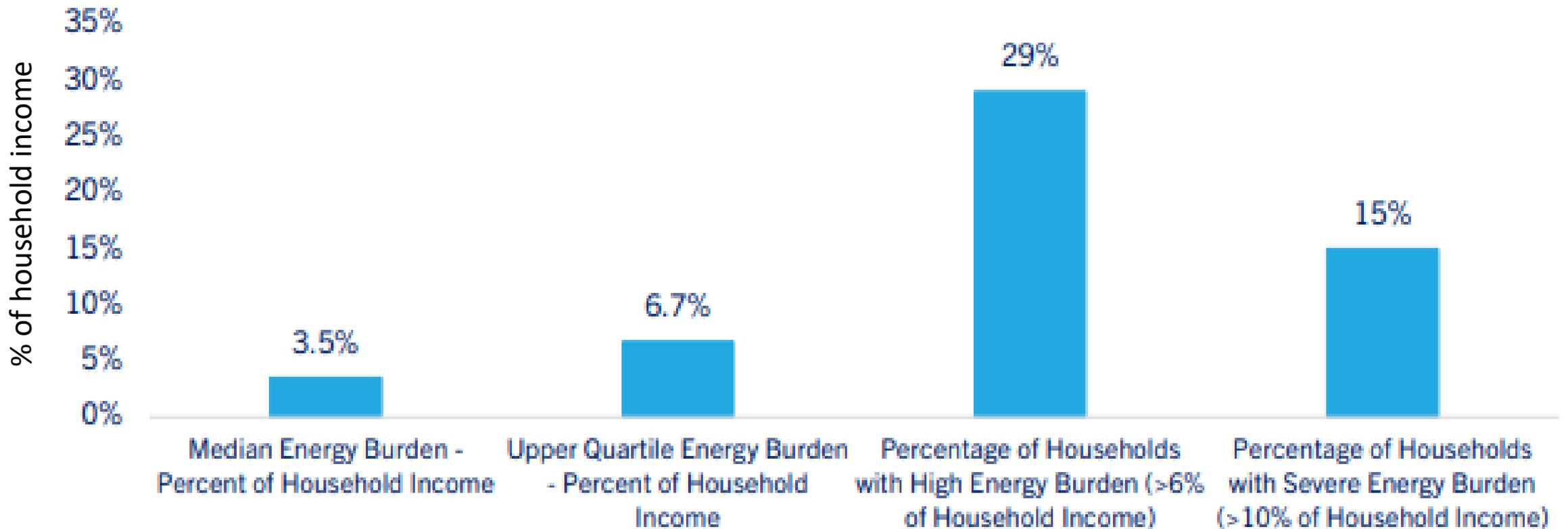
Diversity asks, “How many more of [pick any minoritized identity] group do we have this year than last?” **Equity** responds, “What conditions have we created that maintain certain groups as the perpetual majority here?”

Inclusion asks, “Is this environment safe for everyone to feel like they belong?” **Justice** challenges, “Whose safety is being sacrificed and minimized to allow others to be comfortable maintaining dehumanizing views?”



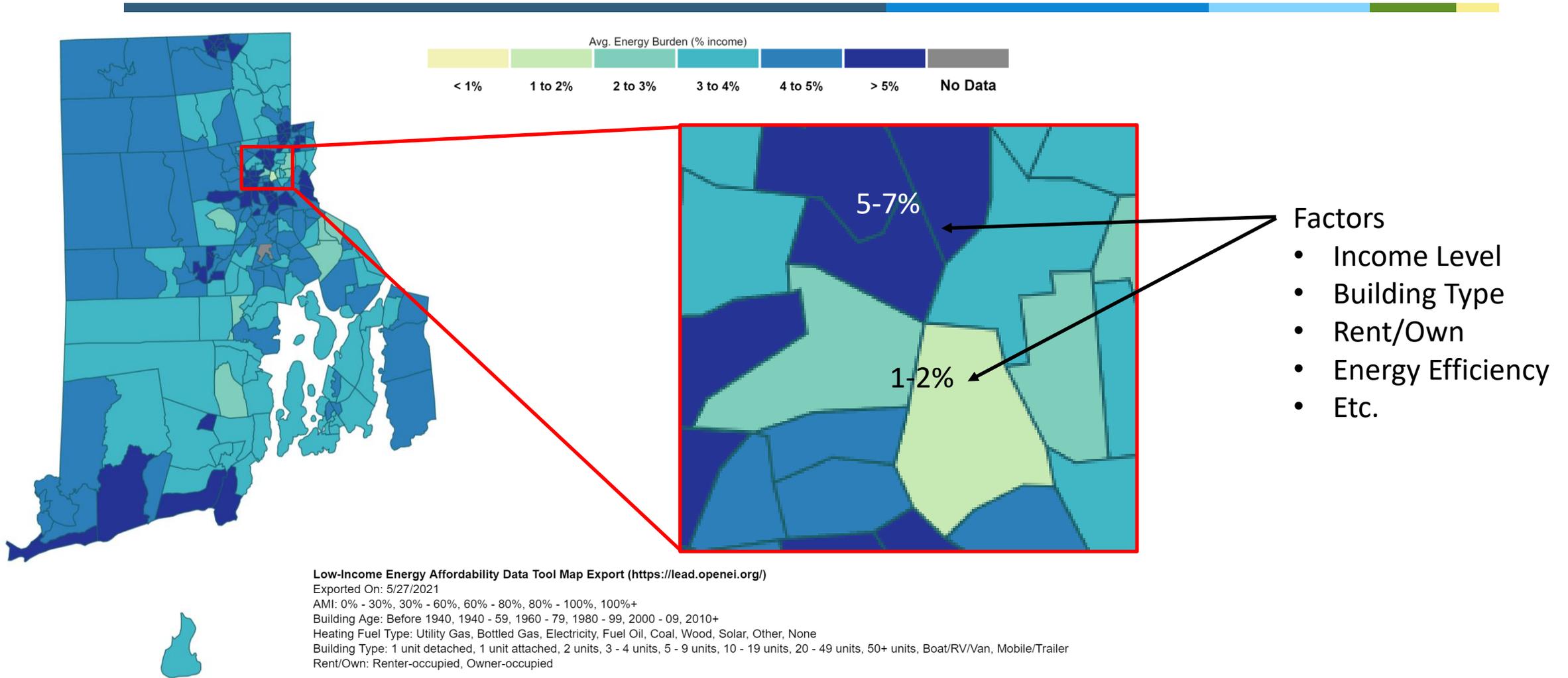
Energy Burden For New England

New England Residential Energy Burden





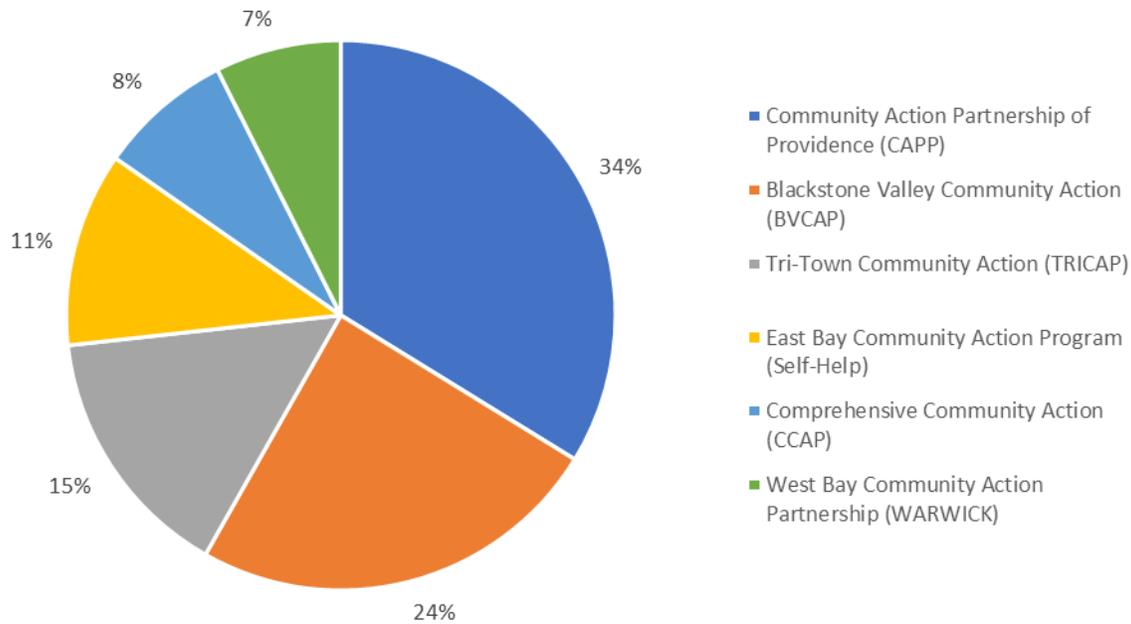
Rhode Island Energy Burden – Why a focus on Equity is Important





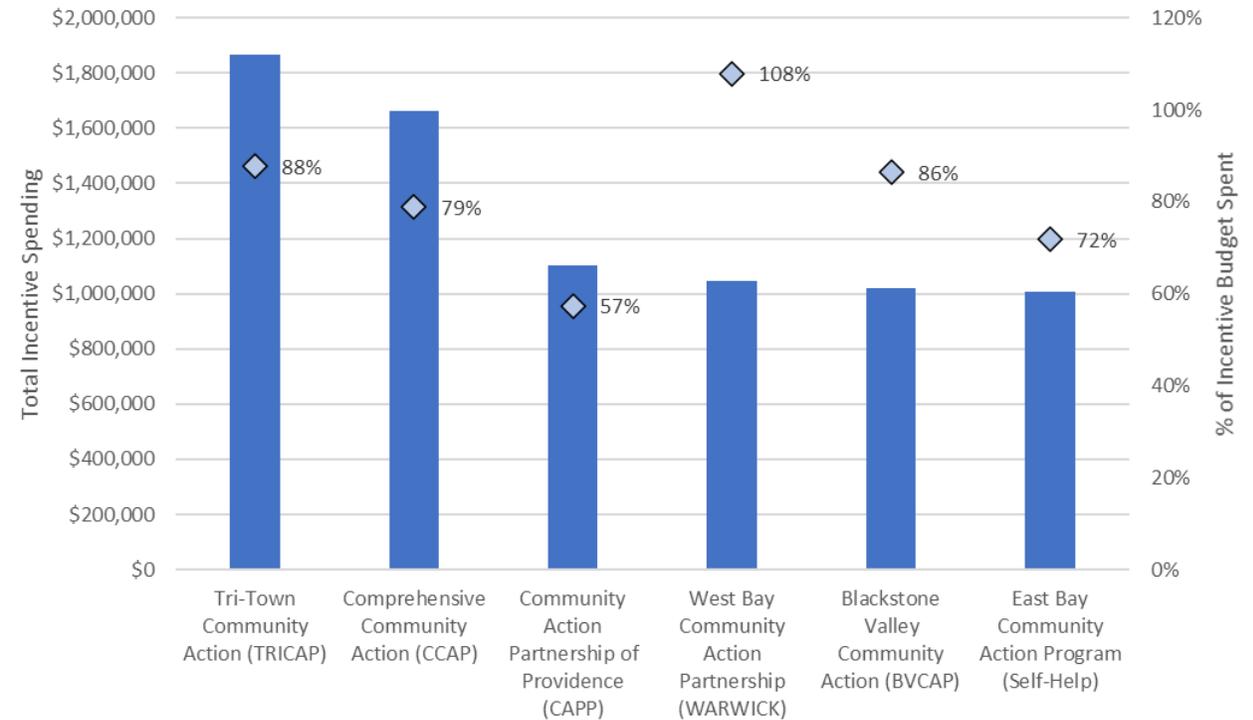
Why focus on Equity Is Important

Percent of Rhode Island Poverty Level Residents by CAP Agency Territory



The territories that the CAP agencies serve account for varying levels of Rhode Island's poverty level residents

2019 CAP Spending Compared to Budget

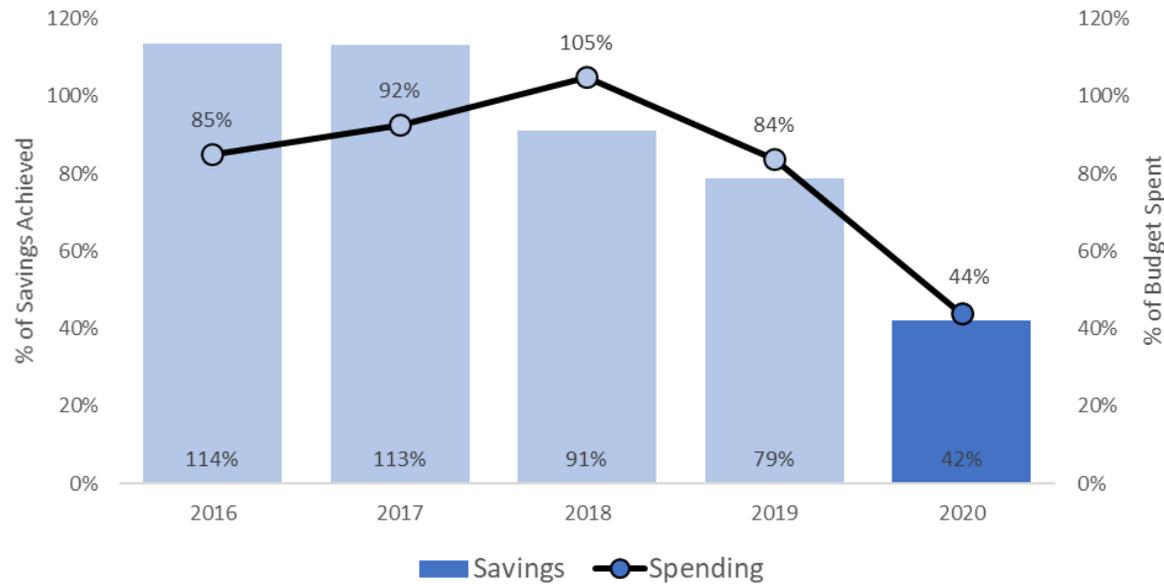


The portion of each CAP agencies budget allocation that is eventually spent varies widely

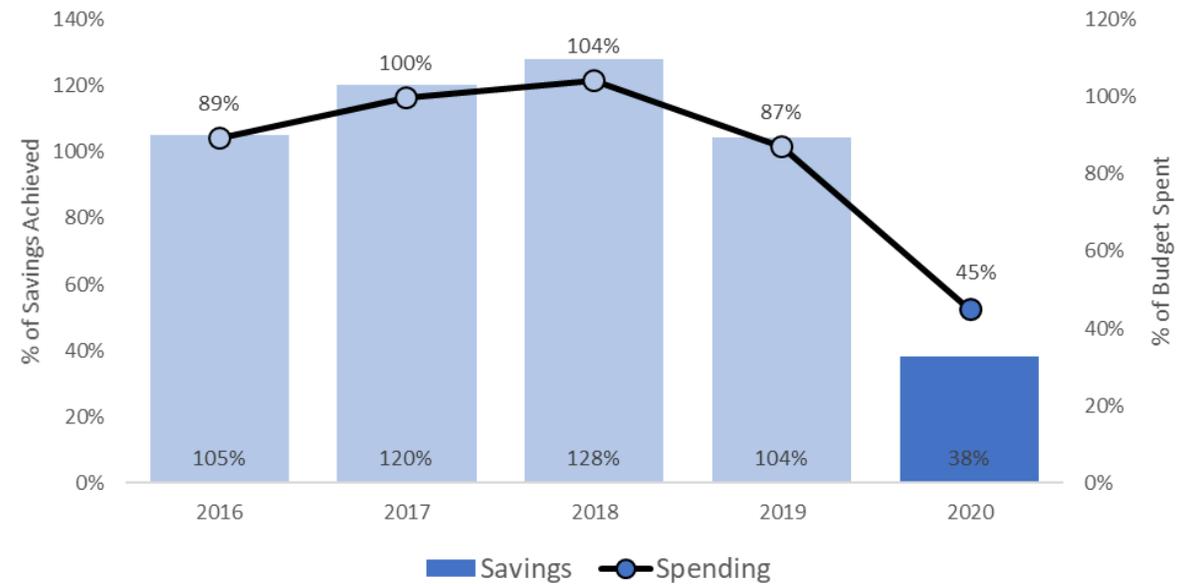


Income Eligible Services Recent Program Performance

Income Eligible Sector Total - Annual Electric Savings and Spending Performance to Goal Through Q4 (2016-2020)

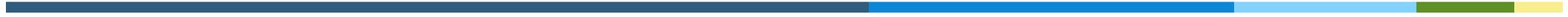


Income Eligible Sector Total - Annual Gas Savings and Spending Performance to Goal Through Q4 (2016-2020)

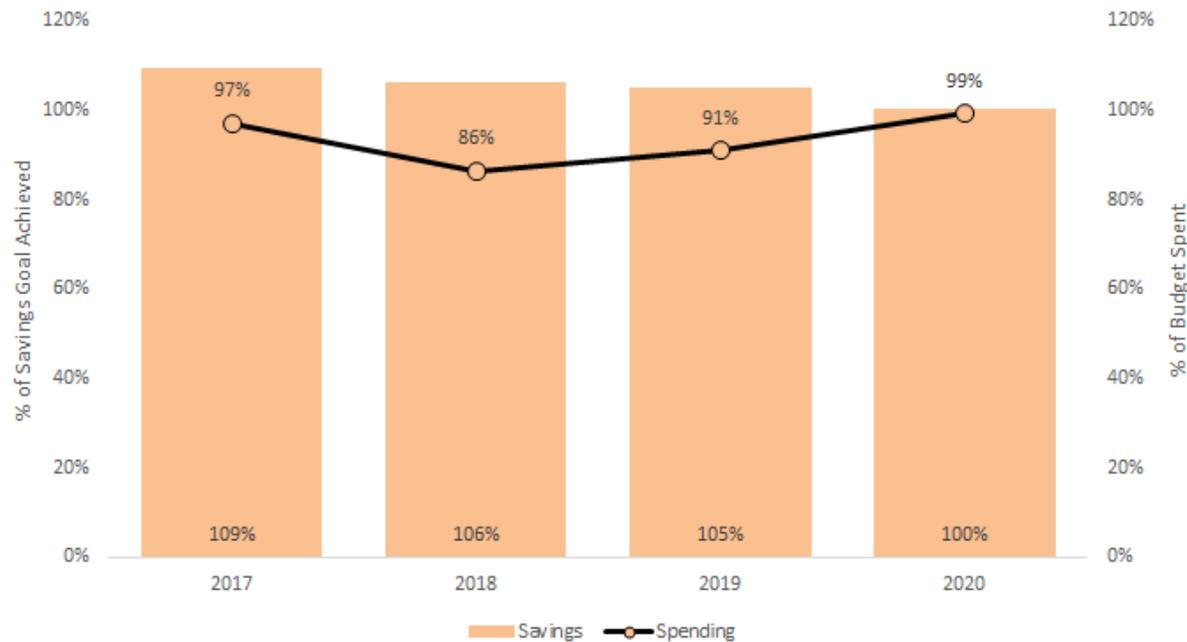




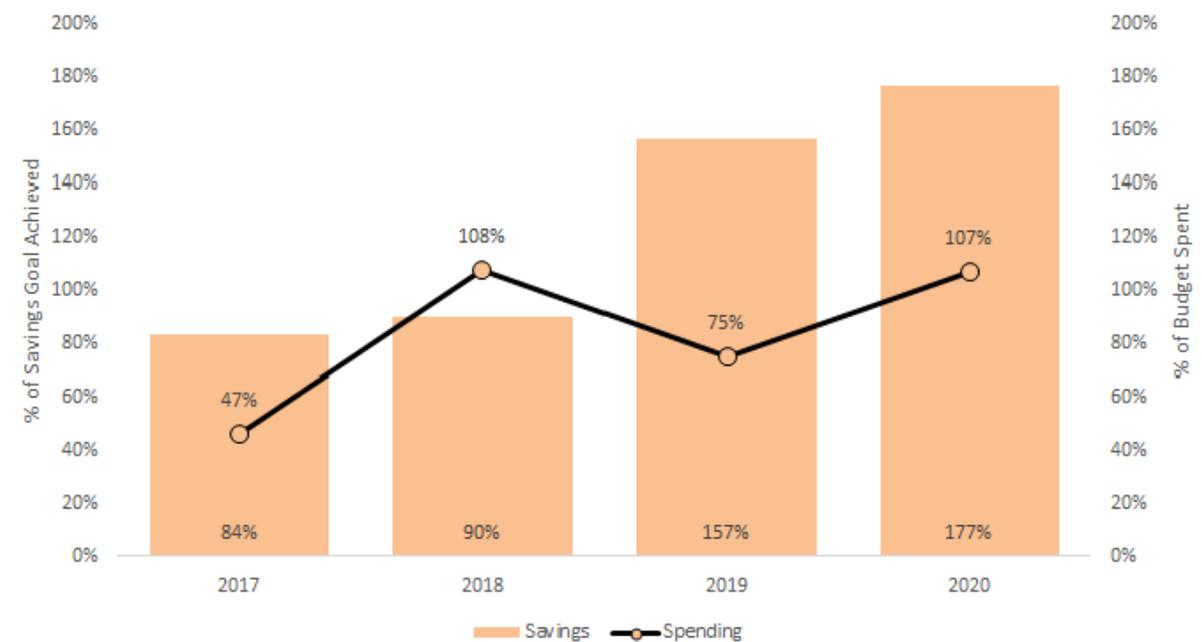
Small Business Direct Install Recent Program Performance



Small Business Direct Install - Lifetime Electric Savings and Spending Performance to Goal Through Q4 (2016-2020)



Small Business Direct Install - Lifetime Gas Savings and Spending Performance to Goal Through Q4 (2016-2020)





III. MA EEAC Equity Working Group Model

Lessons Learned

- Background and Purpose
- Framework and Operating Details
- Recommendations
- Outcomes and Next Steps
- Challenges and Valued Insights



MA EEAC Equity Working Group Model

Background and Purpose

As part of the 2019-2021 Energy Efficiency Plan, the MA EEAC and Program Administrators (PAs) agreed to undertake three evaluation studies to assess participation of renters, moderate income customers, customers with limited English proficiency, and small businesses.

The MA EEAC set specific priorities in 2020 that support aggressive energy efficiency and demand reduction goals while ensuring goals are met **equitably**, cost-effectively, and in accordance with both the Green Communities Act and An Act to Advance Clean Energy.

On May 20, 2020, the MA EEAC created the Equity Working Group to identify and recommend priority actions, plans, and partnerships, to increase participation among underserved communities across the Commonwealth to inform the *2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan*.

- Developed data collection and reporting recommendations to the MA EEAC
- Established goals, priorities, and programmatic recommendations for the MA EEAC to consider in the 2022-2024 Energy Efficiency Planning process



MA EEAC Equity Working Group Model

Framework and Operating Details

The MA EEAC Equity Working Group

- 6 Voting Councilors
- 4 PA Representatives
- 2 Members of the MA EEAC Consulting Team
- 2 Representatives of the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN)
- 3 External Stakeholder Representatives
- 2 Voting Councilors Co-Chair

Meeting Details

- June 2020 – Present
- Every Two Weeks
- Two Hours Each Meeting
- “Closed” Meetings – not public to foster collegiality and facilitate frank sharing of information and insights
- Content developed by the Consultants and the PAs



MA EEAC Equity Working Group Model Recommendations

Partnerships

- Enhance community partnerships
- Develop additional pathways for community partnerships
- Invest in community-based partnerships
- Prioritize underserved communities

Workforce Development

- Increase the diversity of the workforce supporting Mass Save
- Attract and train young and diverse persons for participating in the energy efficiency workforce

Moderate Income

- Improve qualification process
- Enhance incentives

Renters and Landlords

- Enhance marketing and outreach
- Improve whole building services



MA EEAC Equity Working Group Model Recommendations (Continued)

Small Business

- Enhance marketing and outreach
- Prioritize Small Business Turnkey Program
- Emphasize co-delivery and non-lighting measures

Language Isolated Populations

- Understand the customer journeys of language isolated populations
- Facilitate ease of participation
- Develop community-based connections
- Focus on multi-lingual workforce development
- Develop language access

Cross Cutting

- Provide frequent and detailed reporting of participation by underserved customers
- Target and reward PA performance

For each of these higher-level recommendations there were several more specific recommendations. The equity Working Group's full recommendations may be found on the MA EEAC's website: <https://ma-eeac.org/wp-content/uploads/EWG-Recommendations-2.19.21.pdf>



MA EEAC Equity Working Group Model

Outcomes and Next Steps

Current MA EEAC EWG Status

- Transitioning to a new mode of operation, including reduced meeting frequency
- Continuing to assess the Draft 2022-2024 Plan against its recommendations
- Discussing goals/targets to support assessment of progress in increasing participation by underserved populations
- Committed to serving as an ongoing forum for discussion of equity issues related to Mass Save



MA EEAC Equity Working Group Model

Challenges and Valued Insights

Challenges

- Embracing new ways of thinking and of delivering programs
 - Frame the discussion as “how can objectives be achieved?” rather than starting with “the objectives can’t be achieved because of xyz.”
- Balancing strategic- and tactical-level input from stakeholders in planning, implementation, and assessment phases
- Availability and/or transparency of data and information

Valued Insights

- Underserved communities themselves have many of the most useful insights as to how to best reach and serve them
 - And are typically appreciative when they have the opportunity to provide them and see them implemented
- Making new equity efforts alone isn’t sufficient – achieving demonstrable results is the goal
 - New efforts must be assessed and show to be successful in achieving their objectives



IV. EEEWG – Planning Measurable Impact

Purpose

Structure

Schedule and Anticipated Outcomes

Ongoing Studies



EEEEWG – Planning Measure Impact Purpose

The Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group (EEEEWG)

- Will provide impacted communities, and the organizations that serve them, a structured opportunity to provide input and feedback on equity for the planning, design, and delivery of the *Residential* and *Income-Eligible* energy efficiency programs
- Discuss and propose recommendations on how to improve Rhode Island’s energy efficiency programming



EEEWG – Planning Measure Impact Structure

Co-Hosts: National Grid and OER

Facilitation Support: Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI)

Other 30+ invitees include:

- State agencies
- Community-based organizations
- Advocacy organizations
- Local equity leaders

Reporting: EEEWG will report updates to EERMC, as well as National Grid’s Technical Working Group



EEEWG – Planning Measure Impact Schedule and Anticipated Outcomes

May	June	July	August	September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EEEWG Recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EEEWG Recruitment Introductory Meeting Second Meeting: Marketing and Outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EEEWG Recruitment Third Meeting: Service Delivery and Energy Upgrade Outcomes Fourth Meeting: Workforce Training and Data Collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EEEWG Recruitment Fifth Meeting: Funding and Budget Compile Draft Recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EEEWG Recruitment Finalize and Prioritize Recommendations

Virtual meetings with stipends provided



EEEEWG – Planning Measure Impact Ongoing Studies

Two EM&V Studies proposed and approved in 2021 Annual Plan

1. Participation and Multi-Family Census Study (Q4 2021)

- Determine annual and cumulative participation by residential program
- Analyze the characteristics of participants and non-participants
- Identify customer profiles predictive of program participation
- Provide recommendations for program design considerations
- Create a database that includes a census of multifamily buildings
- Provide sample framework for the concurrent Non-Participant Market Barriers Study

2. Non-Participant Market Barrier Study (Q1 2022)

- Identify the common characteristics of customer groups that are not participating or are participating at a lower rate
- Understand the barriers
- Test messaging, new program concepts, and other solutions

Blend findings from both studies to provide new program design and new messaging considerations



EEEEWG – Planning Measure Impact Challenges

Focus Areas

- Access and participation
- Workforce development/pipeline planning – Environmental Justice Communities
- Supporting and strengthening supplier diversity – best practices (internal and external programs)

What does *cost-effectiveness* mean?

How to implement new recommendations within the existing regulatory framework



V. Discussion Framing Questions

1. What new understanding did you find within the equity conversation? Did your perception change or expand?
2. What are the equity concerns in the stakeholder community you represent?
3. What outcomes would you like to see from the EEEWG?
4. What challenges do you anticipate for the EEEWG? How do you think they might be addressed?
5. How would you like to see equity issues addressed in the *2022 Energy Efficiency Plan*?
6. How can the Council play a more active role in achieving greater equity in RI's efficiency program?

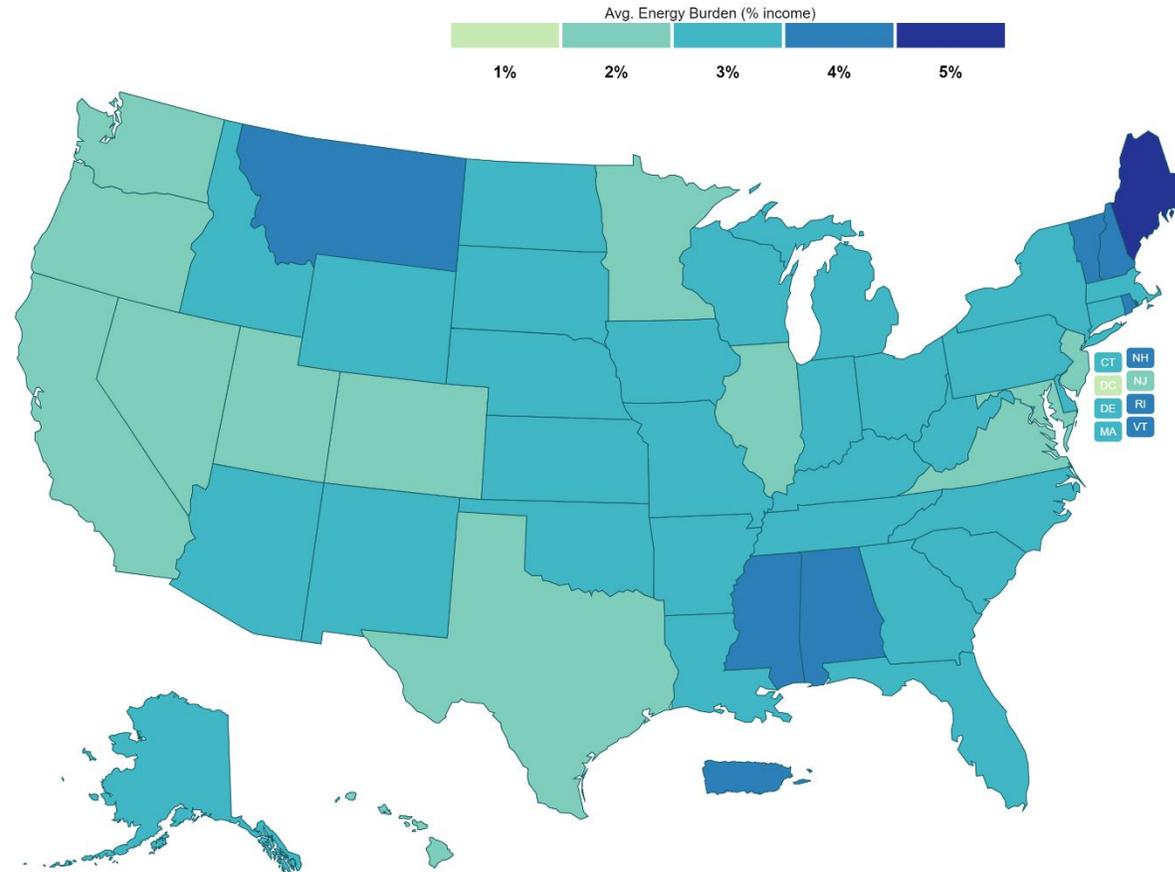


Appendix





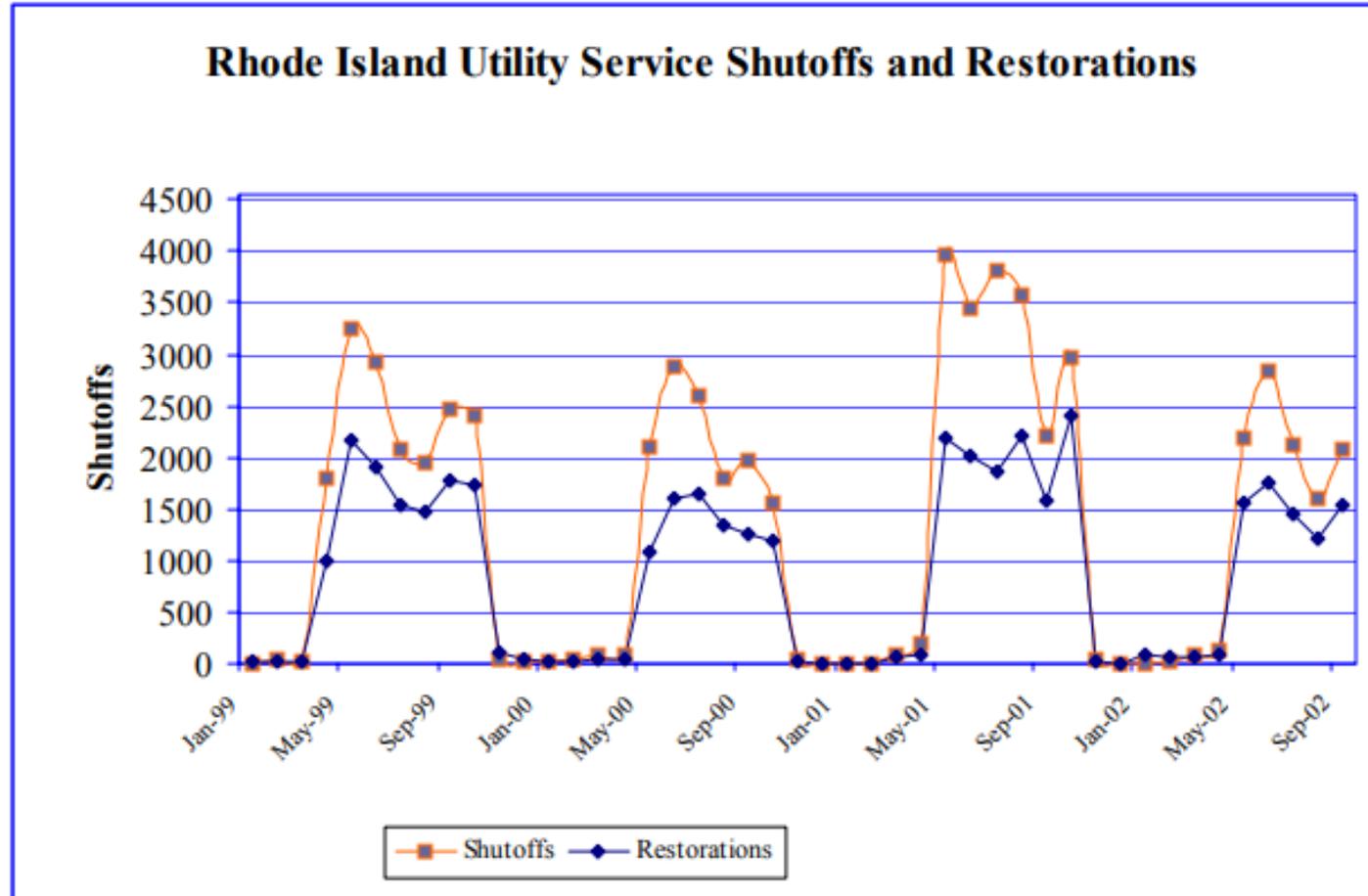
Energy Burden (% Income) For The United States



Low-Income Energy Affordability Data Tool Map Export (<https://lead.openel.org/>)
Exported On: 5/27/2021
AMI: 0% - 30%, 30% - 60%, 60% - 80%, 80% - 100%, 100%+
Building Age: Before 1940, 1940 - 59, 1960 - 79, 1980 - 99, 2000 - 09, 2010+
Heating Fuel Type: Utility Gas, Bottled Gas, Electricity, Fuel Oil, Coal, Wood, Solar, Other, None
Building Type: 1 unit detached, 1 unit attached, 2 units, 3 - 4 units, 5 - 9 units, 10 - 19 units, 20 - 49 units, 50+ units, Boat/RV/Van, Mobile/Trailer
Rent/Own: Renter-occupied, Owner-occupied

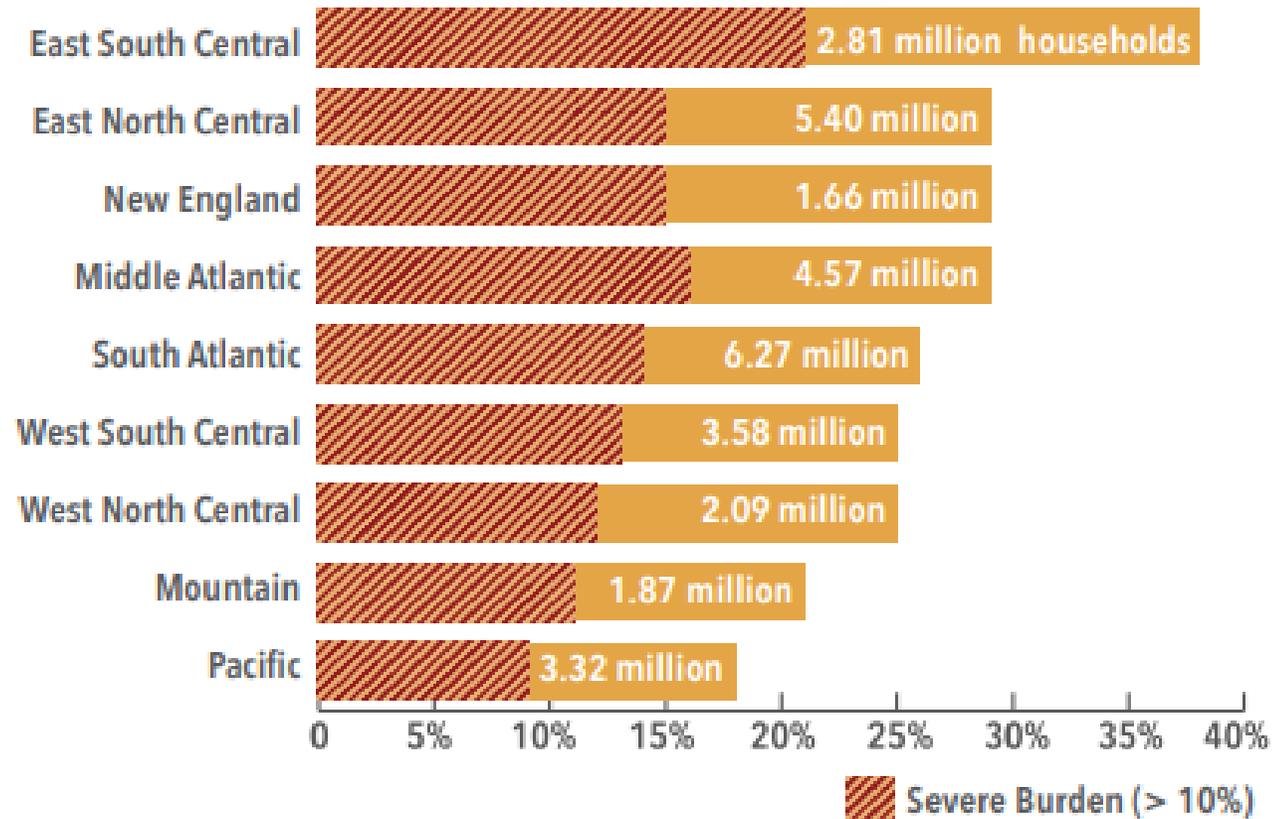


RI Utility Service Shutoffs and Restorations





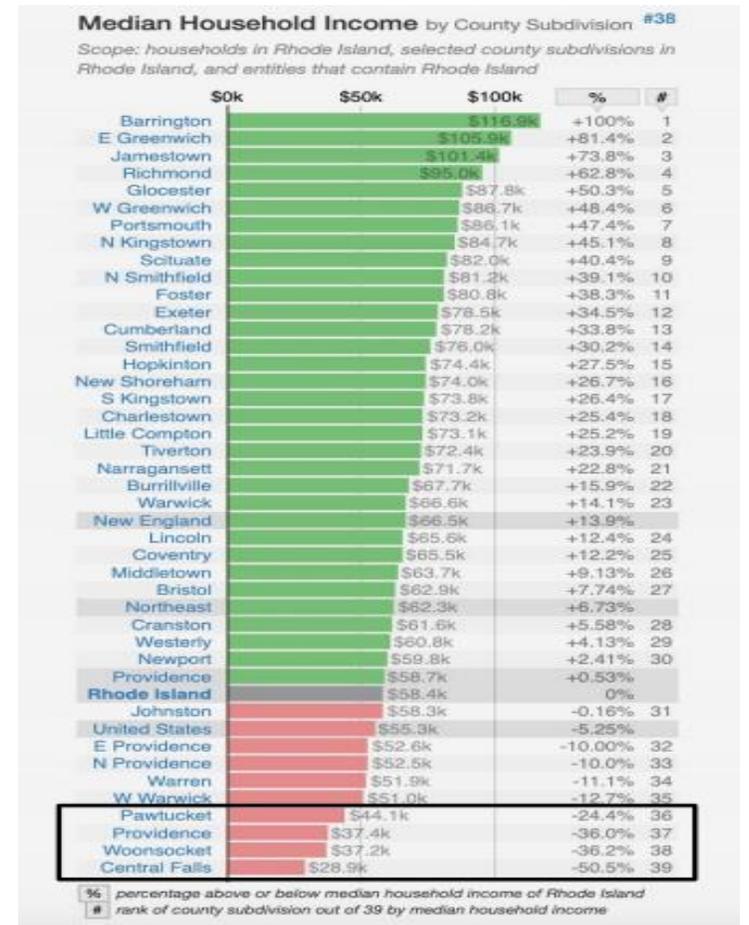
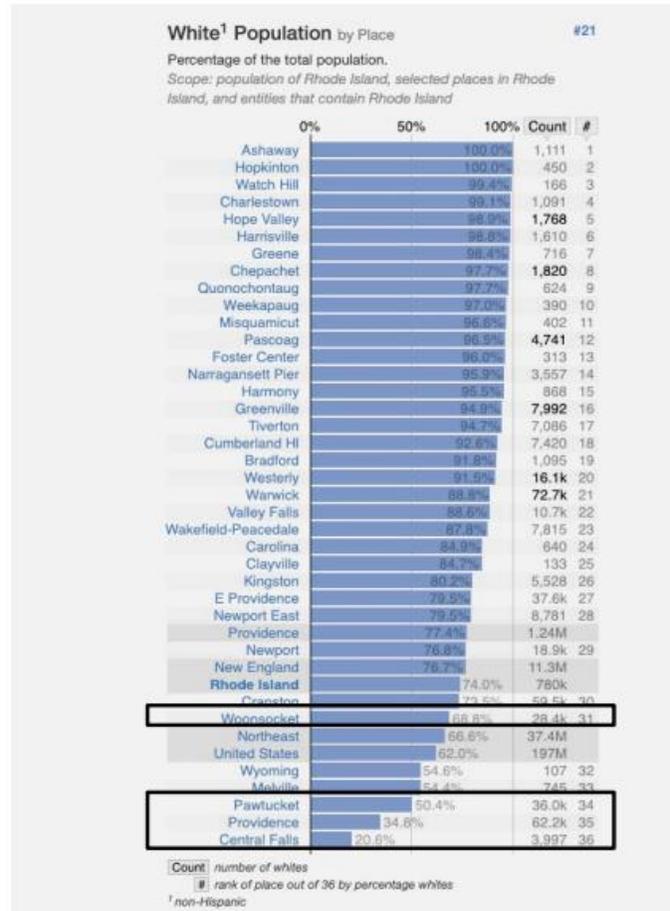
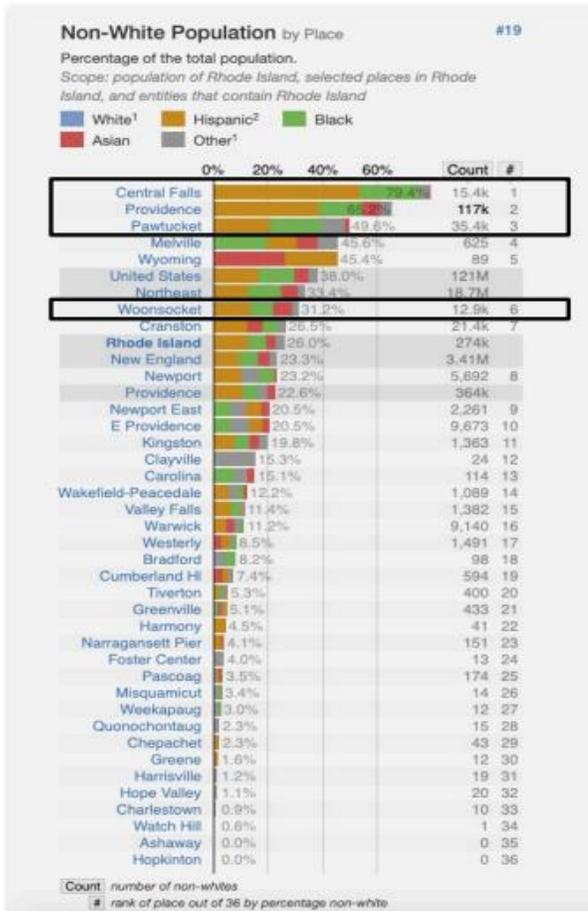
Regional Energy Burden Percent and Number of Regional Households



The percentage and number of all households with a high energy burden (> 6%) in 2017



RI Energy Burden – What It Looks Like





RI Energy Burden – Why The EEEWG Is Important

